

THE CIMARRON NEWS AND PRESS

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EDITORIAL

A COUNTY ROAD PLAN.

The first issue of the Cimarron News-Press contained so many good things that it is hard to choose among them, but the one about good roads is particularly pertinent at this time when the question of good roads and how to get them is engaging the attention of some of the brightest minds of the entire country.

The suggestion in the article in question, to place sections of our roads in the hands of individuals making them responsible for their condition and maintenance is a step in the right direction, but I fear it will not work out quite so well in actual practice, or prove economical. The nearer we can come to placing this responsibility on the people in each district, and let them solve their own problems themselves, the sooner the question of good roads will be settled to the satisfaction of all concerned. Few people now presume to doubt the wisdom of our present public school system and it is handled almost entirely in each district, by three directors, chosen by the people. These men gladly give their time and thought to the schools without compensation. If we could adopt a similar system for our roads, our difficulties would be in a fair way of disappearing. Let the county be divided into road districts corresponding with present precinct lines in each road district, three road trustees to be elected therein at the same time justices of the peace and constables are now elected and in the same way, said road trustees to serve without pay, as do the school trustees. These trustees should have full authority over the roads in their districts, with power to levy a limited tax for the purpose of creating a fund to be used in that district for building new roads and small bridges and culverts and repairing old ones. This would enable each district to see that all funds they raise is expended for their benefit to the best advantage and would give in Colfax County seventy-five of our best citizens, all working for good roads, with the county board of commissioners helping out where most needed. Here's hoping that our legislators will give us a law along these lines.

J. P. BRACKETT.

The suggestion of Mr. J. P. Brackett, ex-county clerk, concerning the election of three road trustees for each district, for the supervision of the county roads, is an elaboration of the plan advanced by Mr. Frederick Whitney, of Cimarron. We believe that if the roads could be handled in as satisfactory a manner as the schools of the larger precincts, the plan would be admirable. There is little difference in the plan, except that Mr. Whitney's original plan provided for the appointment of one competent man by the county commissioners. This plan, for the present, would seem a little more practical, in-as-much as the appointment could be made without an election. It might be a good plan, however, to combine the ideas, by asking the residents of each district to suggest their man, or the commissioners might adopt the Brackett plan and appoint three trustees. But Brackett or Whitney, or both, we are going to have good roads, because every man who is interested in the welfare of the county is working to the same end. The Range would be pleased to hear from other citizens of Colfax on this timely topic.

NEEDED LEGISLATION.

The Territorial legislature convenes on Monday, the 21st of this month. It is the wish of the people in general that the coming session be a business one and graft be a thing of the past. There is plenty of honest work to accomplish. Many laws need revising, among them are the road law, the law regulating the salary of county officers, the changing of the election of the justice of the peace and constable from January to the general election in November, higher qualification for county superintendent of schools, and a number of other important laws which need amending and correcting. Plenty of work is waiting the action of our legislators and it is believed the members of the present legislature are anxious to legislate in the interest of the people in general—Red River Prospector.

WHO'LL TELL?

What has become of the old-fashioned man who used to believe that his employer's interest was his own, and who was willing to work whether the boss was looking or not? The old-fashioned employee used to be willing to work a little harder when there was extra work to do. While his wages were really an object to him, and he took mighty good care of his earnings, he was not averse to coming down a few minutes early in the morning to get work in order, or to make up occasionally for his errors or momentary carelessness which had cost his employer the price of several hours labor the day before. The old-fashioned man was not always as competent as his employer would desire, or as he himself wished. He was always willing, however, to better his condition and increase his knowledge. He was willing to study trade papers and improved every opportunity to make himself more valuable to himself, to the community and to his employers. In the country town in which I was raised, there were painters and printers and carpenters, working by the day or week, who were useful members of society. Some of them and some of the clerks in the stores, were members of the city council, and served on the school board. They attended to their own business and to the business of their employers. Charley Morley was a printer who worked on a weekly paper of the town and earned an average of fifteen dollars a week. He owned his own home and had a nice little family. He had worked in the same office for more than ten years. It was not a big office. Just a little outfit of type, a foot-power job press and a Washington hand press, on which a five column, eight page paper, half patent was printed. But Charley didn't booze. He was a credit to his profession, and his family was as proud of him as were the relatives of either of the bankers in the town. There were several other printers in the town too, employed by the other weekly papers, who were useful members of society and owned their own little homes. There were painters and carpenters, and plumbers in the same town, all looking forward to the future, when by their thrift and industry they could have their own business and become employers instead of employees.

But these men were not enemies of their employers. They never believed that the man who paid them every Saturday night was a particularly hard taskmaster, or had ought but their well being at heart. They were willing that he should make a profit out of his investment and out of their labor. I never knew of any anarchistic tendencies on the part of these men, and I associated with them for several years. I think now they are all employers of labor themselves, and I often wonder if they get the same kind of service from their employees as they gave theirs in the days gone by. These things, and a lot of other events of recent date, have lead me to ask, "What has become of the old-fashioned employee?"

New Mexico is in need of independent smelters, and one big concern will do more for the development of the territory than all else combined. A smelter will be a good thing for any town, too, as it brings more outside money into that place than any other industry possible in this section. Not only will such an enterprise employ hundreds of men, but millions of dollars of ore will be shipped to that point annually, and the money for it paid out through local banks. And then hundreds of shippers follow their ore to spend their money for supplies—Industrial Advertiser.

The Cimarron News-Press will be the stockman's paper, the fruit growers' paper, and a newspaper for everybody, except the knackers. It will be a booster's paper. If you subscribe it will do you good. It is sold at two dollars a year. Address News-Press, Cimarron, N. M.

The First National bank of Raton has declared its regular 6 per cent semi-annual dividend.

Financial Report

In another column we print the annual financial report of the Clerk of Colfax County, covering the year of 1906. This report should be a source of gratification to the people of Colfax County.

A glance back at the financial history of the county for a few years will reveal many interesting facts. When the Republican administration took the reins of government in Colfax County, you could ride from Raton to Folsom without finding a bridge. Roads were so bad over the county that when a ranchman started to town with a wagon, with his dog following, the dog usually turned back home in disgust at the roads. There was a county indebtedness of more than twenty-seven thousand dollars at a rate of seven per cent interest, the credit of the county was such that the Democratic boards of commissioners thought they were lucky to get the money at all. Now these bonds have been refunded at five per cent interest, and if the county needed to borrow money its credit would be unassailable. In addition to the showing made by the present commissioners and county officials, the report demonstrates the marvelous growth and development of the county and the flourishing condition of the county's finances, notwithstanding the many unusual and heavy drains upon it for court, road and bridge and other purposes. The floods of 1904, which was very disastrous to Colfax county bridges, have been a constant source of expense to the county ever since, and many new bridges have been constructed, including the immense concrete bridge on the Taylor road. Every bridge in the county and every road in the county has had to have excessive repairs. The court fund has had great drains because of the doubling of the population of the county, and the large floating population following the building of new coal camps and railroads, everywhere. These expenses have been met with no adequate increase in the taxes for the past year. Notwithstanding all the difficulties the board has had to solve the county treasury shows a balance of \$52,813.91 on hand an increase of more than eleven thousand dollars over the previous year.

An impression prevails among a large proportion of the people in this and almost every other county, that the Board of County Commissioners have the handling of all funds and should be held responsible for same. In fact the commissioners of Colfax County have control over, only the following six funds: General County, Road and Bridge, Special Bridge, Feeding Prisoners, Bounty and Court House Repairs and the report referred to shows that these six funds disbursed a total of \$42,522.43 during the year last past on orders of the county board, which amount includes salaries, care of prisoners at the county jail, and all fixed charges for conducting the many affairs of the county and county officers, repairs and renewal of roads and bridges, new bridges, an addition to the jail, etc.

Territorial taxes are collected by the County Treasurer and by him directly remitted to the Territorial Treasurer at Santa Fe. During the year \$39,320.67 went to Santa Fe. District court disbursed during the year \$9,036.72 in Colfax County.

The City of Raton for its various purposes received from the County Treasurer's hands \$9,570.69.

The financial report of the public schools shows that:

The school superintendent's salary and miscellaneous expenses amounted to \$2,095.76.

District schools throughout the county including City of Raton, disbursed \$33,886.53.

The County Treasurer paid \$4,489.00 interest coupons on Colfax County bonded indebtedness during the year.

The commissions paid to County Assessor and Treasurer and miscellaneous items amounted to \$5,801.80. A considerable proportion of the amount actually disbursed by the county board is on bills incurred by other county and precinct officers and over which the board have only a supervisory power, and the amount of these bills can never be anticipated ahead.

It would seem the part of wisdom for the coming legislature to enact some law by which the Board of County Commissioners could pass upon the expenditure of county funds before the debt is actually incurred and in this way a great deal of the expense of operating a county's business could be reduced. The authority conferred upon justices of the peace is such that they can and sometimes do apparently encourage and permit the incurring of heavy expenses and bills against the county when there is no real necessity therefor and this matter should be looked into by the legislature and a better

law enacted limiting the present authority and regulating the acts of the justices of the peace and other minor officers.

Under the present system the board can never determine at the beginning of any year, with any degree of accuracy, what the probable expenditures for the year will be for the simple reason so many others have authority to incur obligations for which the county is liable under the law, and which the board must assume the responsibility of paying.

Ed. J. O'Brien, Elias Brewer, Andy Callahan, P. L. Ward and George Fite, Santa Fe switchmen, have been arrested at La Junta charged with robbing freight cars. They are being held in jail to await the action of the district court.

The Wells, Fargo Express company is about to erect a \$12,000 three-story office building in Las Vegas.

Bounty Warrants

A perusal of the list of bounties paid for the killing of wild animals in Colfax County will surprise you. Thousands of dollars have been paid out in the past few years for this purpose, and the cattlemen of the county are taxed from year to year to make up the fund, which until recently has shown a deficiency. The principal amounts have been paid out for wolves, although a large amount has gone to extermination of coyotes. The wild-cat list has been large, too. Very few bears or mountain lions have been found in the list in recent years.

The amounts paid out for bounties might, it is possible, be due in a measure to the fact that we are near the Colorado line, where no bounties are paid; that Mora County is years behind in the payment of her bounties, and that Union County never has paid out bounties. We do not believe for a moment, however, that these facts have anything to do with the amounts Colfax pays, because it is necessary to file an affidavit with the application for bounty, stating that the animal was killed within the borders of Colfax County. The proximity to Colorado and the New Mexico counties is mentioned merely as a coincidence.

Not long ago a couple of Mexicans captured two wolves and brought them alive to the commissioners for the bounty. They were informed that it would be necessary to kill the animals and bring in the hides before the sum could be paid, and finally the captors reluctantly took the animals away to the slaughter. When a bounty is paid on a hide the commissioners make it by slitting the nose, and the hide remains the property of the applicant for bounty. The story is told of a man in a neighboring county who located the lair of a pair of wolves, and each succeeding year was able to kill from three to six wolf pups and take their hides to the county commissioners for the usual bounty of ten per head. The peculiar part of the story was that the man was never able to kill either of the old wolves, and went on harvesting the crop of cubs from year to year. Colfax county hunters would have soon exterminated the whole family.

But with all the different features of the bounty question, it seems as if the cattlemen were carrying a pretty heavy burden for the number of wild animals apparently at large in the county now.

Hon. Charles A. Spiess of East Las Vegas, member-elect of the legislative council from San Miguel county, who has been in Washington and who appeared in the United States supreme court in an important law case during the week, will return home about the middle of the coming week. Mr. Spiess made a very strong and eloquent argument before the supreme court in the case of Cunningham et al vs. Charles S. Springer and was highly complimented thereon by many who were present to hear it—New Mexican.

EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT

The Rhyolite Mining & Milling Co. has been doing some effective development work on its properties near Red River, in Taos county, and has opened up a body of ore that promises good values. It is the intention of the company to push the development to a point where ore can be shipped as soon as possible and the promoters are confident that this property will prove the means of opening up the Red River country to remunerative mining operations.

From the Raton Range, Alfred Brown, bridge contractor for the Rocky Mountain Route, spent Sunday in Trinidad.

A. T. & S. F. TIME TABLE

RATON, NEW MEXICO

Effective Nov. 4th, 1906

Trains West Bound		Trains East Bound	
No. 3	2:40 a.m.	No. 8	5:40 a.m.
No. 1	10:00 a.m.	No. 4	8:10 a.m.
No. 7	1:25 p.m.	No. 10	4:35 p.m.
No. 9	8:00 p.m.	No. 2	6:15 p.m.

R. C. Larimore, Agent

ST. LOUIS, ROCKY MOUNTAIN & PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY

Passenger Schedule

Daily Wells Fargo Express

Train No. 1	Distance from Raton	STATION	Train No. 2
2:30 p.m.	7	Leaves RATION	12:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m.	13	Leaves CLIFTON HOUSE	12:01 p.m.
4:25 p.m.	20	Leaves PRESTON	11:40 a.m.
4:35 p.m.	30	Leaves KOEHLER JUNCTION	11:30 a.m.
5:00 p.m.	38	Leaves VERMEJO	11:10 a.m.
5:30 p.m.	41	Leaves CERROSOLO	10:25 a.m.
5:55 p.m.	47	Leaves CIMARRON	9:45 a.m.
6:30 p.m.			9:25 a.m.

Connects with El Paso & Southwestern Ry. train 124, arriving in Dawson, N. M., at 6:10 p.m.
Connects with El Paso & Southwestern Ry. Train No. 123, leaving Dawson, N. M., at 10:35 a.m.
Stage for Van Houten meets trains at Preston, N. M.
W. A. GORMAN, Gen. Pass. Agt., Raton, New Mexico

Wholesale Hardw're

Builders supplies, Tin Roofing, Galvanized Structural Iron Work, Nails, Bar Iron and Steel, Paints and Oils, Cook Stoves and Ranges, Horse Shoes, Corrugated Roofing and Complete Line of Tin and Granite Ware

SPORTING GOODS

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Raton, New Mexico

THE BIG STORE

Always the Leaders in
GOOD GOODS and
LOW PRICES



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Sale Now On

...Cohn Brothers...

MERCANTILE COMPANY

First National Bank

Raton, New Mexico



Capital Paid Up.....\$100,000
Surplus and Profits (Earned).....\$60,000
Deposits.....\$800,000

Oldest and Largest Bank in Northern New Mexico.
Safety Deposit Boxes in Connection.

Depository for the A. T. & S. F. Ry., St. Louis, Rocky Mountain & Pacific Ry., and Coal Companies, Territory of New Mexico, and County of Colfax.

Accounts from Merchants, Corporations, Individuals, and Ranchmen received on favorable terms. Interest paid on time deposits. If any change is contemplated in present banking arrangements please correspond with us.

C. N. BLACKWELL, Cashier